Production of Indigenous ASWAC system at Bangalore

*234. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous programme to develop an Aerospace Surveillance Warning and Control System (ASWACS) has been dropped by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and how the decision is going to affect the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of Radio Therapy

*235. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy Commission has embarked upon a number of projects for the use of Isotopes in medicines and agriculture and if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the extent of use of radio therapy in medicine in India and what are the names of the medical colleges/hospitals licensed so far and likely to be licensed in the next few years to use radio therapy;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage production of radio therapy equipment in India and what incentives can the Atomic Energy Commission give in this respect; and

(d) what are the plans for the production of Cobalt sources for use in radio therapy, including the research conducted in this respect so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy has an extensive programme on the use of radio isotopes in medicine, industry and agriculture. In addition to the existing radiation medicine centre in Bombay, one is being set up in Calcutta. Radio isotopes are also being used in areas like genetic improvement of crop plants, in increasing efficiency of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers for different crop soil regimes, monitoring availability of micronutrients for crops and their movement in the soil profiles and study for the fate of pesticides applied to crops.

(b) About 130 cobalt-60 teletherapy units are currently in use for treatment of cancer. In the next two to three years, about 10 to 15 new units are expected to be licensed every year. In addition 60 brachytherapy units in the country provide intracavity and interstitial treatment for cancers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy can provide technical assistance to intending manufacturers in design specifications, radiation safety etc. and will also supply cobalt-60 sources required for this purpose. These sources are also being supplied by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to various Hospitals since 1968 and its production is being increased to meet future needs.

Progress achieved in different sectors under the 20-Point programme

*236. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress achieved in different sectors under the 20-Point Programme during the last financial year, as compared to the targets fixed, State-wise;